

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 14, 15, and 31-33 have been amended, and claims 3, 11, 16-30, and 34-36 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-15, and 31-33 are pending in the present application. The claim amendments are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed, with no new matter being added. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct various typographical and grammatical errors. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, and 31-33 have been amended to correct various typographical and grammatical errors, and not for reasons related to patentability.

Claims 1-15 and 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art disclosed on pages 5-6 of the present application (hereafter the “APA”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,079 to Sukharev (hereafter “*Sukharev*”) for the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the source gas is selected from aluminum trimethane, aluminum tetramethane, titanium tetramethane, a vaporized tantalum in the form of an organometallic compound, trimethyl aluminum hydrate, and a Ru or Mo metalorganic precursor. Independent claims 14 and 15 recite similar features. Support for these recited compounds can be found in the application as filed on page 12, line 17, and page 16, line 19.

There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references of the specific compounds recited in claims 1, 14, and 15. The APA only discloses the compound dimethyl aluminum hydrate (page 6, line 16), which is not recited in the present claims. *Sukharev* only discloses the precursor TEOS (tetraethyl orthosilicate), as well as BPTEOS (borophosphoTEOS), TEB (triethylborate), TMOP (or TMPO, trimethylphosphate), OMCTS (octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane), HMDS

(hexamethyldisilazane), TMCTS (or TOMCATS, tetramethylcyclotetrasiloxane), and TRIES (*see* col. 8, lines 29-30, col. 10, lines 25-26).

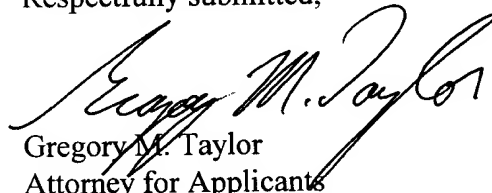
Hence, even if the teachings of the APA and *Sukharev* are combined as suggested by the Examiner, not all of the limitations of claims 1, 14, and 15 would be met. Accordingly, claims 1, 14, and 15, as well as dependent claims 2, 4-10, 12-13, and 31-33, would not have been obvious over the cited references. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present claims. In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the application, which could be clarified in a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 6th day of July 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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